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are stunted by long hours of toil in factories, that womanhood's vitality is sapped by occupations that make child-bearing difficult or impossible, that economic stress drives young girls to prostitution and utter physical wreckage, that criminals and feeble minded continue to marry and breed a race physically and morally degenerate—has all this no meaning to nurses *as nurses*?

Shall we wave such problems aside and say that the power to influence their solution by the ballot does not concern a convention of nurses?

I submit that there is no organization of women to whose support the woman suffrage movement might look more appropriately than to that of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae.

Above and beyond the relation of the nurse to her own particular patient is the deeper, ever-present relation of the nurse to society. It is probable that the average private nurse is not forced, like the visiting nurse, to feel this fact with overwhelming pressure. But she has her share in the social responsibility. The problem is in the homes of the rich and the poor alike: how to secure the physical health that is necessary for good citizenship. A thoughtful nurse will see in the suffering of the individual patient the suffering of a whole world; and when nurses meet in convention, nothing can be more relevant than the question, will woman suffrage help in any degree to cure the world's sufferings?

Opinions will differ on the answer to this question; but that its introduction at San Francisco was suitable and timely seems to this writer unquestionable.

M. ELMA DAME.

[We wish that nurses generally would read the second volume of the "History of Nursing," for they would then better understand the relation between nursing and the movement for the emancipation of woman.—Ep.]

FAILURE IN EXAMINATIONS

DEAR EDITOR: As we have to take the state examination in nine different subjects, is it fair, in case we fail in three or more of them, to have to retake the whole set? Some nurses on retaking an examination fail in subjects they passed in at the first trial. Why not take the second test in those topics only in which we fail? The May JOURNAL informs us that thirty candidates failed in the New York examination in nursing of children and sixty-six in diet cooking, out of one hundred and forty. What causes so many to fail in these subjects? Are we properly instructed along the lines the state board requires?

R. G.

[R. G.'s letter was referred to Jane Elizabeth Hitchcock, secretary of the New York Board of Examiners, and her reply follows:

"The Board of Nurse Examiners follows as closely as possible the precedent of the other professions whose examinations are controlled by the Department of Education. In point of fact, however, it has not yet been able to demand as high a standard as that obtained by the other professions. In examinations in law, medicine, dentistry, etc., an applicant failing in one subject only is permitted to take an examination in that subject and must pass it successfully before the rest of his examination may be considered at all. Failing in more than one subject the entire examination is discounted and the applicant must retake all of the subjects to receive recognition. In the nursing profession, a successful candidate may fail in two subjects, provided the general average is

at least 75 per cent., but failing in more than two subjects the entire examination must be retaken. This is the ruling of the Regents, and is not a matter for the decision of the Board of Examiners. It will be seen that the nurses' examinations are on a lower standard than the other professions. It is earnestly hoped that the nurse examination requirements in this particular may shortly be brought up to a correspondingly higher plane."

The question at the end of the letter is answered in the report of the New York Inspector of Training Schools, published in the December JOURNAL.—ED.]

A NEED FOR NURSING LIBRARIES

DEAR EDITOR: As I am out of active nursing for the winter at least, I shall have time for reading. I do not see many nurses, and a hospital only occasionally, so the JOURNAL is highly prized by me.

I cannot afford to buy all the nursing books I want to read and study, nor can I draw them from the library, for they are not in it. How I wish I had had the JOURNAL to read when I was in training—not so very long ago—and a good library in our home would have added much to our training.

An interesting book on surgery or nursing history or biography of nurses—what a help and what a stimulus they would have been! And we would have rested while reading.

Why cannot hospital boards with the local *alumnæ* associations establish such a library in each hospital, the graduates to have the privilege of using the books? Has it been tried? Then, after reading a book once, we would become intelligent in buying for our own libraries. I do confess I hate to send an order for two or five dollars worth of books I haven't read. I have no good book on surgery because I do not know which one I want, never having read any of them.

If the plan is feasible will you bring it up in the JOURNAL?

Yours very truly,

T. B. H., R.N.

A QUESTION OF LOYALTY

DEAR EDITOR: If a candidate enters a training school for nurses, remains ten or twelve months, and leaves of her own accord, because the nurses' quarters are not what she thinks they should be, and because she thinks the work too hard, is it fair to graduates who have worked and studied two and three years, for doctors to employ her, when they can get a graduate nurse? I would like to hear from several nurses on this question. J. T.

COST OF ENDOWED ROOMS

DEAR EDITOR: Our *alumnæ* association is endowing a room for its sick nurses. We thought we might be able to get such an endowment for about five thousand dollars, but we were quite discouraged by reading in the JOURNAL that one hospital has charged its nurses twenty thousand dollars for a room. We wish associations having endowed rooms would let us know through the JOURNAL what their cost of endowment has been. Is any concession made to nurses or are they charged the same as outsiders?

AN ALUMNÆ OFFICER.